

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 AID-05 /076 W

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R 091044Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7609

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11632

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: BDG NEGATIVE ON A NEW ROUND OF TALKS

REF: DACCA 4038

1. ACCORDING DELHI PRESS AUGUST 8, A GOI SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT INDIA HAD SENT A NOTE TO BDG ON JULY 30 INVITING IT TO RESUME TAKS ON "THE SHARING OF THE GANGA WATERS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SHORTAGE" (TEST OF ARTICLE QUOTED). SPOKESMAN FURTHER SAID THAT GOI HAD RECEIVED THE BANGLADESH REPLY AUGUST 7 AND THAT IT WAS BEING STUDIED.

2. FIRST SECRETARY BDG HIGH COMMISSION MOHIUDDIN AHMED CONFIRMED ABOVE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND TOLD EMBOFF GOI WAS SEEKING ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL BDG MISSION TO COME TO DELHI. HE SAID THAT BDG REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE "MORE FRUITFUL" IF GOI WERE TO RESPOND TO BDG PROPOSALS ON FARAKKA BEFORE ANOTHER ROUND OF MEETINGS TOOK PLACE. AHMED SPECIFICALLY CITED BDG PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESERVOIRS (REFTEL). IN SUBSTANCE, BDG REPLIED "NO" TO ANOTHER MEETING UNTIL GOI INDICATES THAT IT HAS SERIOUSLY
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CONSIDERED BDG'S PROPOSALS.

3. AHMED CLAIMED THAT GOI HAS ADOPTED ABOVE STRATEGY TO DEF-
END ITSELF FROM ANY BDG CRITICISM AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED
SUMMIT. GOI CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARGUE THAT FARAKKA MATTER AND
OTHER BDG GRIEVANCES ARE "SUB JUDICE" AND THAT THESE ISSUES
SHOULD PROPERLY BE CONTINUED TO BE DISCUSSED AT BILATERAL
LEVEL. AHMED SAID THAT GOI CONTINUES TO SHOW NO INTEREST
IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH, AS INDICATED BY ITS
UNRESPONSIVENESS ON FARAKKA AND THE CONTINUATION OF CROSS
BORDER RAIDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION, RIVERS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE11632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760305-1176
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760872/aaaackrm.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DACCA 4038
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG NEGATIVE ON A NEW ROUND OF TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006